

FIELD CROPS

POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

FLORIDA

SPRING: Potato production to be harvested during the spring is forecast at 5,720,000 hundredweight, down ten percent from a year ago. Total spring acreage for harvest is expected to be up two percent but average yields are expected to be 35 hundredweight below last year. Hastings growers plan to dig 16,500 acres, equal to last year. The Hastings yield is expected to average 260 hundredweight per acre, down 35 hundredweight from the 2000 yield of 295 hundredweight per acre. Hastings production is set at 4,290,000 hundredweight, down 12 percent from last year. Spring crop production from other areas is forecast at 1,430,000 hundredweight, down three percent from the spring 2000 production of 1,475,000 hundredweight. Planting was completed in early January in the Palmetto-Ruskin region and later in the month in other areas. Warm, dry February weather allowed potatoes to develop normally. Heavy rains at the end of March did little damage to potatoes. Harvest opened in chip fields during late March.

WINTER: Potato production totaled 1,200,000 hundredweight, down 42 percent from the 2000 production of 2,080,000 hundredweight. Growers harvested 5,000 acres compared with 8,000 acres dug last year. Yield averaged 240 hundredweight per acre, down 20 hundredweight from the 2000 crop yield, but up 30 hundredweight per acre from the January 1 forecast. Heavy rains in the Homestead area during December virtually wiped out the Dade County crop. Early January brought frost to other areas but caused little damage to tubers. Growers started digging in February in the Immokalee area. March storms delayed digging but did virtually no harm to the crop.

UNITED STATES

WINTER: Production of 2001 winter potatoes in California and Florida combined for an estimated 3.99 million cwt, up 6 percent from the January forecast but 20 percent below last year. Area for harvest, at 14,000 acres, is down 18 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 285 cwt per acre, is up 17 cwt from January but 7 cwt below a year ago. The potato crop in California improved since the January 1 forecast. Growing conditions in California were relatively good resulting in a 10 cwt increase in the yield forecast.

SPRING: Spring production in 2001 is forecast at 20.3 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 74,500 acres, down 1 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 272 cwt per acre, down 18 cwt from last year. North Carolina planting progressed ahead of normal and was mostly finished by the end of March. Production is forecast at 3.33 million cwt this year, down 2 percent from last year. The Texas spring potato crop is forecast at 2.07 million cwt, down 7 percent from a year ago. Growers expect a reduction in both harvested acreage and yield per acre. Cool, wet weather in Arizona slowed progress but production should be equal to last year.

California's production, at 6.63 million cwt, is 11 percent below last year. Reduced acreage and lower expected yields both contributed to this decrease. Most of the spring crop is progressing normally, although some fields experienced cool, wet weather early in the season. Harvest is expected to start in May, about two weeks later than normal.

POTATOES

Seasonal group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested						
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	320	310	2,210	2,880	2,790
Florida	8.2	7.8	8.0	5.0	260	240	1,860	2,080	1,200
Total	17.2	16.8	17.0	14.0	292	285	4,070	4,960	3,990
Spring									
Alabama ^{1/}							280		
Arizona	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	280	280	3,024	2,520	2,520
California	18.8	17.0	18.8	17.0	395	390	7,600	7,426	6,630
Florida	22.3	22.6	21.5	22.0	295	260	8,820	6,343	5,720
Hastings	17.2	17.0	16.5	16.5	295	260	6,930	4,868	4,290
Other	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.5	295	260	1,890	1,475	1,430
North Carolina ^{2/}	17.5	18.0	17.0	17.5	200	190	3,300	3,400	3,325
Texas	9.8	9.5	9.3	9.0	240	230	2,303	2,232	2,070
Total	77.4	76.1	75.6	74.5	290	272	25,327	21,921	20,265

^{1/} Spring estimates to be combined with summer starting with 2000 crop year. ^{2/} Summer estimates combined with spring starting 2000 crop year.

POTATO STOCKS RECORD HIGH, UP 20 PERCENT

April 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled a record high 154 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year and 17 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from a year ago. This year's record high stocks exceeded the previous record set April 1, 1997 by 4 percent.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 was a record high 308 million cwt. This disappearance was up 5 percent from the last two years and 4 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. The disappearance during March was 44.3 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, to this point in the season, was 35.4 million cwt, up 31 percent from last year and 32 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers under a cooperative program to reduce surpluses.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled 151 million cwt as of April 1, up 1 percent from last year in comparable States. In March, processors used 19.9 million cwt of potatoes, down 5 percent from last year in comparable States.

Eastern States stored 7.20 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 2001, down 14 percent from a year ago but 6 percent above two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 8 percent and New York's stocks were off 57 percent from last year. Pennsylvania's storage was down 40 percent from last year.

Central States accounted for 27.3 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, 17 percent above April 2000 but 3 percent below 1999. Minnesota's stocks were up 72 percent and the Nebraska-Ohio combination was up 42 percent. Stocks in North Dakota were up 32 percent from last year. Wisconsin's stocks were down 13 percent and Michigan's potato stocks were 44 percent below a year ago.

Western States held 120 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2001, up 24 percent from the last two years. Washington's potato stocks were up 61 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks increased 19 percent, and Oregon's were up 5 percent. Colorado's stocks increased 2 percent from last year and Montana's were up 27 percent. California's potato stocks were down 29 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 1997 through 2000 ^{1/}									
State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1 ^{2/}	Entire season
1,000 cwt									
Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon	1997	26,880	33,950	41,050	49,470	57,620	65,750		91,450
	1998	27,510	34,700	42,670	51,210	60,040	68,550	76,410	92,860
	1999	27,970	34,490	40,790	49,220	57,820	66,080	74,110	88,210
	2000	29,290	35,720	43,470	50,580	58,910			
Maine ^{3/}	1997	1,250	1,720	2,265	2,735	3,355	3,900		5,870
	1998	1,430	1,935	2,530	2,985	3,595	4,180	4,705	5,945
	1999	1,270	1,700	2,385	3,070	3,765	4,560	5,150	6,670
	2000	1,845	2,475	3,105	3,695	4,225			
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	1997	28,580	33,990	38,690	46,400	53,720	59,780		76,930
	1998	33,630	38,890	45,650	53,290	60,930	67,180	74,190	83,730
	1999	33,320	39,620	45,500	53,350	61,080	67,230	74,840	83,210
	2000	34,770	40,970	47,720	55,250	62,860			
Other States ^{4/}	1997	11,645	13,960	17,115	19,905	23,515	26,365		37,842
	1998	11,570	14,465	18,030	20,850	24,850	28,190	31,365	39,865
	1999	12,455	15,035	17,950	20,855	24,305	27,220	30,410	36,435
	2000	12,650	16,235	18,625	22,030	25,420			
Total	1997	68,355	83,620	99,120	118,510	138,210	155,795		212,092
	1998	74,140	89,990	108,880	128,335	149,415	168,100	186,670	222,400
	1999	75,015	90,845	106,625	126,495	146,970	165,090	184,510	214,525
	2000	78,555	95,400	112,920	131,555	151,415			

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI. ^{2/} Data not available prior to 1998. ^{3/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only. ^{4/} MN, ND, NV, SD , and WI in 2000. MI, MN, ND, and WI in 1997-1999.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1991 through 2000								
Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
1,000 Cwt								
1991	363,541	242,070	211,005	178,515	145,820	108,865	69,110	
1992	368,516	246,820	215,990	184,560	152,795	115,785	75,040	
1993	376,954	249,410	217,300	185,490	153,435	115,170	72,860	
1994	410,839	273,290	238,560	202,470	169,570	129,825	87,600	
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870	
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,635	103,210	
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	461,827	309,520	272,960	235,050	198,320	154,030		

^{1/} Data not available prior to 1998.